

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SANA 01896 230911Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 SS-15 SP-02 MCE-00 EB-08 L-03
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R 230516Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY SANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4507
INFO SECDEF WASHDC/ISA/DSAA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER/ECJ4/7-SA
CUSMTM DHAHRAN SA/J-3
USMTM RIYADH SA
DIA WASHDC

S E C R E T SANA 1896

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, YE, SA, US
SUBJECT: TRANSFER OF SAUDI HELICOPTERS TO YAR

REF: JIDDA MSG 2948 DTG 190736Z APR 78

1. REFTEL NOTES, INTER ALIA, THAT SAG WANTS USG PERMISSION TO TRANSFER AUGUSTA BELL HELICOPTERS TO YEMEN. ACCORDING TO REFTEL, SAUDIS HOPE TO TIME DELIVERY OF FIRST THREE HELICOPTERS TO COINCIDE WITH COMPLETION OF HANGERS, PRESENTLY SCHEDULE FOR LATE JUNE 1978. WHILE WE SUSPECT SCHEDULE MAY SLIP A BIT (VISITING AUGUSTA BELL PILOT INSTRUCTOR TOLD DATT HANGERS WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE READY UNTIL AUGUST), TIME IS CLEARLY DRAWING NEAR.

2. TO ASSIST US IN FIELDING ANY QUESTIONS OR PROBLEMS WHICH MAY DEVELOP AT THIS END, WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION DEPARTMENT CAN PROVIDE ON SCENARIO OF TRANSFER AND RELATED LEGAL PRO-

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CEDURES. FOLLOWING SPECIFICS COME TO MIND:
A. AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, HELICOPTERS WERE PURCHASED BY SAUDI ARABIA FROM AUGUSTA BELL, AND SAG IS NOW FORWARDING REQUEST TO USG FOR PERMISSION TO TRANSFER THEM TO YEMEN. CAN THIS BE DONE THROUGH SIMPLE NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESS OR IS CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL REQUIRED.

B. DEPENDING ON ANSWER TO PREVIOUS QUESTION
HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE TO SECURE NECESSARY
APPROVAL?

C. WE UNDERSTAND TOTAL TRANSACTION INVOLVES
12 HELICOPTERS (SIX AB 206 OBSERVATION HELOS AND
SIX AB 212 UTILITY HELOS). ARE SAUDIS REQUESTING
PERMISSION TO TRANSFER ALL 12 OR ONLY THE FIRST
THREE? IN LATTER CASE, APPEARS TO US IT WOULD
BE WISE TO INFORM KEY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS THAT
ADDITIONAL TRANSFER IS IN THE WORKS TO PRECLUDE
ANY SUSPICION THAT SAUDIS ARE TRYING TO CONCEAL
INCREMENTAL TRANSFER OF HELICOPTERS.
SCOTES

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HELICOPTERS, MILITARY SALES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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